

Introductory Course for Commercial Dog Breeders

Topic 5: Exercise



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Learning Objectives

1. Describe the components of a written exercise plan.
2. Describe exercise requirements for dogs.
3. Describe a few ways in which you can provide exercise for dogs at your facility.



Written Exercise Plan

Written Plan of Exercise

AWA requires dealers, exhibitors and research facilities to:

- Develop
- Document (in writing)
- Follow

a plan for providing dogs with the opportunity to exercise.

Exercise Plan Requirements

- Reviewed and approved by veterinarian
- Include standard exercise procedures
- Available for APHIS inspection

EXERCISE PLAN FOR DOGS

Licensee/Registrant Name (type or print legibly)

License/Registration #

The Animal Welfare Regulations, Title 9, CFR, Part 3, Subpart A, Section 3.8, requires all licensees and registrants to develop, document and follow an appropriate exercise plan for their dogs. In addition, the exercise plan must be approved by the attending veterinarian. In developing an exercise plan, you should consider providing positive physical contact with humans that encourages exercise through play or similar activities. If dogs are maintained without sensory contact with other dogs, they must be provided with daily physical contact with humans. Forced methods of exercise such as treadmills, swimming, or carousels are unacceptable for meeting the exercise requirements.

Please check the appropriate box(es) and, if necessary, describe below.

☐ My dogs are over 12 weeks of age (except bitches with litters) and are housed individually in a cage, pen or run that provides at least two times the floor space required for each dog, as described in Section 3.6(c)(1).

☐ My dogs are over 12 weeks of age and are housed in compatible groups in a cage, pen or run that provides, in total, at least 100 percent of the required space for each dog if it were maintained separately.

☐ Other: Please describe the exercise provided to your dogs to meet these requirements (type or print legibly). Attach additional sheets, if necessary.

A. Frequency: _____

B. Method: _____

C. Duration: _____

I have read the regulations pertaining to the requirement for a written exercise plan for my dogs and hereby submit this completed "Exercise Plan for Dogs" to meet that requirement.

Licensee/Registrant signature

Date

I have read and approve this exercise plan.

Veterinarian's name (type or print legibly)

Veterinarian's signature

Date

Note: This is an optional document to assist licensees/registrants in meeting the requirements of Section 3.8 of the regulations. Licensees/Registrants may develop their own formats if desired.

Exercise Plan Components

- Methods
- Duration
- Frequency
- Type of housing:
 - Individual
 - Group



Exercise: Exemptions

Animal's health, well-being or condition prohibits exercise

Exemptions:

- Documented in writing
- Reviewed every 30 days
 - Unless permanent condition
- Kept available at all times for APHIS inspectors to review



Exercise Requirements: Individual vs. Group Housing

Exercise: Individually Housed Dogs

Dogs housed individually in cages/runs must be provided with regular opportunities to exercise if:

- Cages/runs provide less than two times the required floor space for that particular dog

Individually Housed Dogs

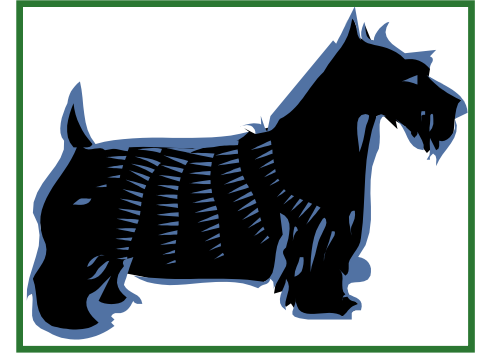
$$\underbrace{[(\text{Length} + 6'') \times (\text{Length} + 6'')]}_{\text{Minimum floor space (inches)}} \times 2 = \text{No additional exercise required}$$

*Exercise required for individual dogs housed in enclosures **less than** 2x the minimum floor space

Individual Housing: Example

“Sparkles” -Scottish Terrier

18 inches from tip of nose to
base of tail

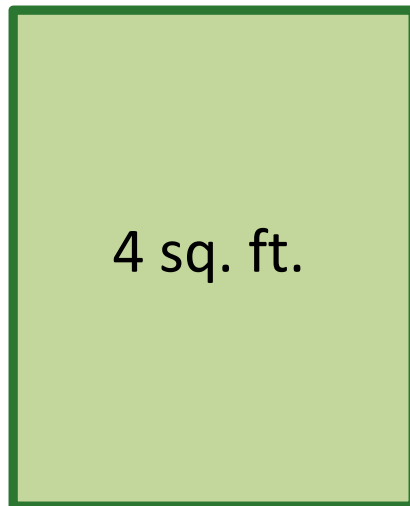


$[(18+6) \times (18+6)] = 576$ sq. in. minimum floor
space

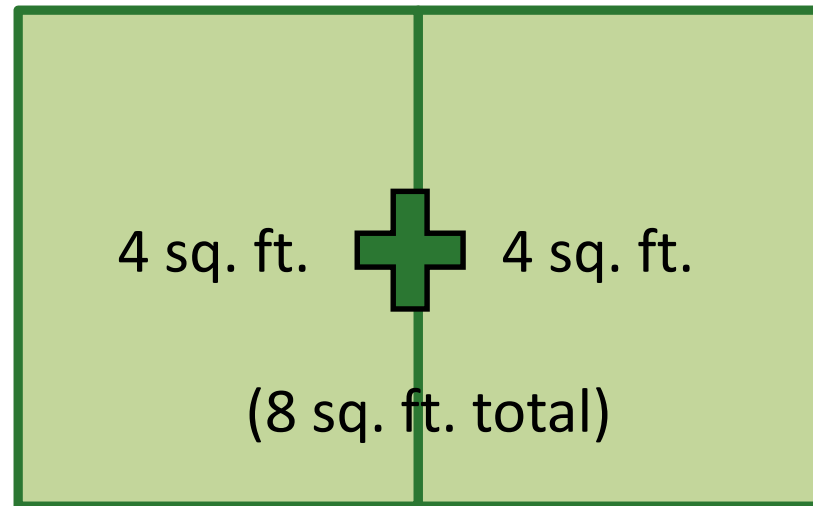
$576 \times 2 = 1152$ sq. in. minimum floor space if
offering no additional exercise

* Convert to square feet: $\frac{1152 \text{ sq. in.}}{144 \text{ in per sq. ft}} = 8$ square feet

Example cont'd



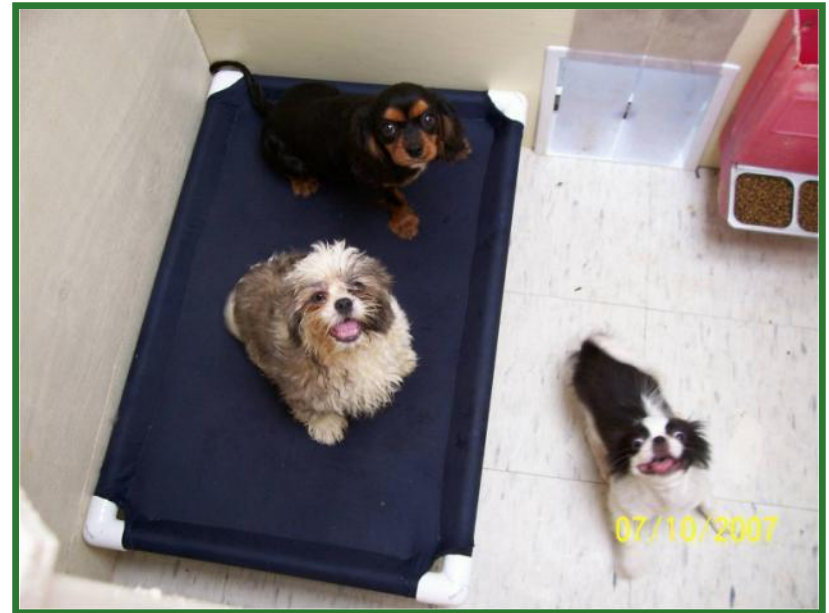
Additional exercise
opportunities
required



No additional exercise
opportunities required

Group Housing

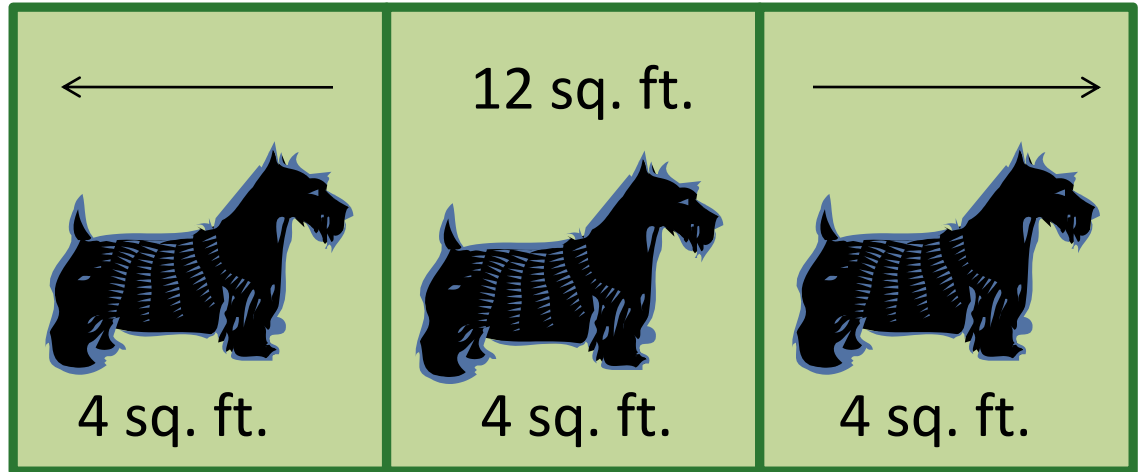
- Dogs over 12 weeks of age
- No additional exercise opportunities needed if:
 - Cage/ run is 100% of the required space for each individual animal



Group Housing Example



Additional exercise opportunities required



No additional exercise opportunities required

Group Housing: Example



Group Housing: Compatibility

Advantages:

- Increased exercise
- Socialization
- Play time

Animals over 12 weeks of age may be housed in compatible groups unless:

- Health or well-being is affected
- Aggressive or vicious behaviors are exhibited



Methods for Providing Exercise Opportunities in Your Kennel

Benefits

Exercise, play and positive physical human contact benefits dogs:

- Alleviates stress of kenneling
- Better socialization

Consider exercise and play time even if not required.



Exercise Methods

Acceptable methods:

- Positive physical human contact and play
- Access to an open area/run
- Compatible group housing

Unacceptable methods:

- Treadmill
- Swimming
- Carousel type walkers

Group Exercise Playroom



Enrichment



Group Housing Exercise



Exercise within Housing Unit



Conclusion

You should now be able to:

1. Describe the components of a written exercise plan.
2. Describe exercise requirements for dogs.
3. Describe a few ways in which you can provide exercise for dogs at your facility.



Questions?

Acknowledgments

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